

# Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention  
of childhood injuries*



North Dakota Department of Health

Spring 2003

Division of Maternal and Child Health

## Bike Carriers/Trailers

Children younger than age 1 should never be carried on a bicycle, a bicycle carrier or a bike trailer for many reasons:



- Bike helmets are not designed for children younger than 1. An infant's head is too small to fit a bike helmet. If a helmet were available, the child's neck would be too weak to hold the helmet. The weight of the helmet could force the child's head down, causing injury.
  - Movements from the motion of a bike may jolt, shake and jar the baby's body, causing injury.
  - Carriers and trailers are not designed for an infant's small body. Restraints are designed to hold toddlers in an upright position. Children often fall asleep with the motion of the bike; both bike carriers and trailers are not designed to support a small sleeping body.
  - Carriers often add weight to the back of the bike, making the balance harder to control and increasing the chances of a crash.
  - Rollovers cause the majority of injuries to children riding in trailers.
  - A child placed in a backpack carrier on a bike rider is at increased risk for head and neck injuries and at risk of being a cushion for the bike rider.
- The following are guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that may decrease but do not eliminate the risk of injury:
- Infants younger than age 1 are too young to sit in a rear seat and should not be carried on a bicycle.
  - Children older than age 1 who sit well unsupported and whose necks are strong enough to support a lightweight helmet may be carried in a child trailer or rear-mounted seat.
  - The AAP recommends children ride in bike trailers pulled by the bike rather than bike carriers mounted on the bike.
  - Only adult cyclists should carry young passengers in a seat or trailer.
  - Preferably ride with passengers in parks, on bike paths or on quiet streets. Avoid busy thoroughfares and bad weather, and ride with maximum caution and at a reduced speed.
  - A rear-mounted seat must:
    - Be securely attached over the rear wheel.
    - Have spoke guards to prevent feet and hands from being caught in the wheels.
    - Have a high back, a sturdy shoulder harness and a lap belt that will support a sleeping toddler.
  - A lightweight toddler bike helmet should always be worn by a young passenger to prevent or minimize head injury. The helmet should meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) standards.
  - The child must be strapped into the bike seat with a sturdy harness.

# Soap-Making Kits Recalled

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Pace Products Inc. voluntarily is recalling about 145,000 children's soap-making kits. When heated in a microwave oven, the soap may get too hot and may leak from the tray mold, posing a burn hazard to children.



The soap kits were sold under the name "Soap Making For Kids." The kits include a plastic mold tray, three bars of glycerine, string and an instruction book. Scholastic Book Clubs and book fairs sold the recalled soap kits at schools nationwide from March 2000 through November 2002, and bookstores sold the kits from March 1998 through November 2002.

Consumers should take these soap kits away from children immediately and contact Pace Products at 800.541.7670 to receive instructions for returning the soap kits for a refund.

# Baby Walkers Recalled

CPSC and Kolcraft Enterprises voluntarily are recalling about 410,000 toy attachments on baby walkers. The flower toys on the baby walker's tray can detach from the stems, exposing sharp edges and posing a laceration hazard to young children.



Continued on page 3

# Infant Swings Recalled

The CPSC and Baby Trend voluntarily are recalling to repair about 15,000 infant swings. A screw on the swing's support arm can loosen or detach, causing the seat to separate and drop to one side, presenting a fall hazard to infants.



This recall includes Trend Swing swings with model numbers 8711 and 8722. The model number is found on the bottom of the seat. The swings were sold in khaki/gingham and navy/white plaid and feature a toy bar, song player and timer.

Toys R Us stores sold these swings nationwide from November 2001 through September 2002. Consumers should stop using these recalled swings immediately and contact Baby Trend to receive a free repair kit. For more information, consumers can contact Baby Trend toll-free at 800.328.7363.

Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
<http://www.health.state.nd.us>

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North Dakota Department of Health  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200  
1.800.472.2286

Terry Dwelle, M.D., State Health Officer  
John Joyce, M.D., Community Health Section Chief  
Sandy Anseth, Division of MCH Director  
Dawn Mayer and  
Carol Holzer, Editors

This newsletter can be accessed at  
[www.ndmch.com/injury-prevention/publications.asp](http://www.ndmch.com/injury-prevention/publications.asp)



## Baby Walkers Recalled, continued

The walkers are multi-colored and have either a detachable toy bar or a detachable music center on the tray. On each tray are two 6.5-inch stems with 3.5-inch stars on top. The recalled walkers were sold under the Tot Rider and Carter's brand names. The Tot Rider walkers included in the recall have model numbers 14303-AC, 14303-CC and 14401-OT. The model numbers are printed on stickers located on the inside wall of the base of the walker.

Discount, department and juvenile product stores sold the walkers with these toys nationwide from December 2000 through October 2002. Consumers should remove the detachable toy bars or music center on these walkers immediately. For information about receiving a replacement toy bar or music center, consumers can contact Kolcraft toll-free at 888.695.9988.

## Infant Garments Recalled

The CPSC and Wear Me Apparel Corp. voluntarily are recalling about 3,000 infant girls' garments. The paint on the smiley-face zipper-pull attached to the jacket contains



lead. Young children could ingest lead from the zipper pull, presenting a lead-poisoning hazard.

The recalled garments were sold under the Joe Boxer brand name in sizes 12 months through 24 months. The garments were sold as sets that include a light-tan sweat jacket with the word Smile embroidered on the front and a yellow smiley-face



zipper pull and red sweat pants. Style numbers 40801002 and 40801003 are included in the recall and can be found on the reverse side of the care label.

Kmart stores nationwide exclusively sold these garments from August 2002 through October 2002. Consumers should return the clothing sets to any

Kmart store to receive a full refund. For additional questions, consumers can contact Wear Me Apparel Corp. at 866.469.6257.

## Monsters Inc. Dolls Recalled

CPSC and Disney Store Inc. voluntarily are recalling about 14,500 Sulley with Boo plush dolls sold exclusively at The Disney Stores nationwide. The recalled doll is a blue monster named Sulley that is holding a 6-inch girl doll named Boo. Both are characters in the 2001 animated film Monsters Inc. The Boo doll's hair has ponytail holders that could detach, posing a choking hazard for young children.



The recall includes only the 12-inch Sulley with Boo plush dolls. The Sulley doll is a blue monster with purple spots, a tail and horns. Sulley is holding a Boo doll in his right arm. Labels on the Sulley doll read Disney Store, Sulley W/Boo 12" and Made in China.

Disney Stores nationwide exclusively sold these plush dolls from July 2002 through October 2002. Consumers immediately should remove and discard the two pink ponytail holders and two rubber bands from the Boo doll's hair or return the item to any Disney Store for a full refund. For more information, call Disney at 800.566.3161.

# Motion Lamps Recalled



CPSC and Cracker Barrel Old Country Store voluntarily are recalling about 27,000 motion lamps. Wires near the light's socket can become exposed, posing a risk of electric shock or electrocution to consumers.

The recall involves the pumpkin and snowman model motion lamps.

The ceramic lamps have

liquid-filled globes that become warm, moving the glitter inside. The pumpkin lamp has orange

liquid in its globe, straw hair and a burlap hat. The snowman wears a black top hat and a red and black scarf. The snowman's globe is filled with a clear liquid.

Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores sold the motion lamps nationwide from August 2002 through October 2002. Consumers

should unplug the lamps immediately and contact Cracker Barrel Old Country Store at 888.645.6516 to receive a full refund.



# Wooden Vehicles Recalled

The CPSC and Kmart Corp. voluntarily are recalling about 50,000 wooden vehicles filled with candy. These products may be given to children as toys. The wheels on the wooden toys may break off into small parts, which may pose a choking hazard to young children.

The recalled wooden vehicles include a red wagon, a truck and a train with packaged candy. The following UPC codes are located on the bottom of the vehicles: 694405900012 (wagon), 694405900029 (truck) and 694405900036 (train).

Kmart Stores sold these wooden vehicles from November 2002 through

December 2002. Consumers should take them away from children immediately and return them to any Kmart store for a full refund. For more information call Kmart at 800.635.6278.



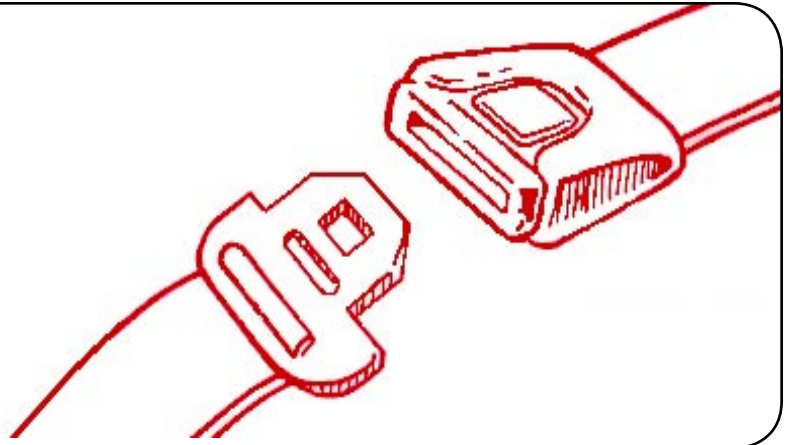
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# The Buckle Update



## Study Shows Kids Still Ride in Front Seat

A recent national study of more than 28,000 fatal crashes between 1990 and 1998 found that 31 percent of children 12 and younger were riding in the front seat. Other findings of the study include:

- Children were less likely to be in front in a vehicle with a passenger air bag than in other vehicles.
- Women were four times more likely than men to seat children 6 and younger in front.
- A child was five times more likely to be seated in front with the driver when the child was alone with the driver.
- Children older than 6 were more likely to be in the front seat than were younger children.

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## Child Passenger Safety Legislation Defeated

HB 1253, which would have required children younger than 6 to ride in a child restraint, was defeated 44 to 49 by the North Dakota House of Representatives. The bill also would have added a penalty of \$25 for drivers who violated the law.

North Dakota's current child passenger safety law requires children younger than 4 to be secured properly in a car seat. Children ages 4 through 17 must be secured properly in a car seat or buckled correctly in a seat belt. The current penalty is one point against the license of the driver.

HB 1253 was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the North Dakota Department of Health, the North Dakota Department of Transportation and State Farm Insurance. Several parents also spoke in support of the legislation during the House Transportation Committee Hearing, which gave the bill a 7 to 6 Do Pass recommendation.

Advocates provided testimony on the importance of placing children between 40 and 80 pounds and up to 4 foot 9 inches tall in a booster seat rather than

a seat belt. They discussed the confusion between what is legal and what is safest for buckling up young children. In her testimony, parent Candace Muggerud explained, "It became apparent to us that the law was not parallel to the ... recommendation needed for our children in the years just following car seats."

Two other occupant protection bills also were defeated by the 2003 Legislature. SB 2366 would have prohibited individuals younger than 18 from riding on portions of vehicles not designed for transporting passengers, such as cargo areas of pickup trucks. SB 2189 would have changed the state's seat belt law from secondary enforcement to primary enforcement.



# Warning: Check Recessed Buckles on Car Seats

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a warning to consumers that car safety seats with recessed buckles should be checked frequently to make sure the buckle is functioning adequately. Recessed buckles tend to collect bits of food, drink and grime after years of use.

Consumers should be aware that a dirty buckle could appear to be latched when it is not fully engaged. They should:

- Check to make sure the buckle is latched by listening for the click and then tugging on the webbing.
- Inspect the buckle frequently and remove any dirt or food that has collected there.

If the buckle stops working, it should be reported to the manufacturer and to NHTSA. This warning was not prompted by any particular incident, but by an accumulation of complaints received by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation.

## Buckling Up During Pregnancy

To ensure a healthy baby, many women make significant changes in their lifestyle when they are pregnant. They rest more; watch their diet more carefully; avoid alcohol, drugs, and cigarettes; and exercise regularly.

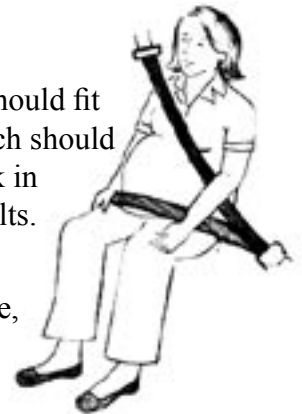
However, some question whether or not they should wear a seat belt because of concerns that, in a crash, the seat belt may harm them and their unborn baby.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there is no evidence that seat belts increase the chance of injury to the baby, uterus or placenta in a crash. NHTSA and Safe Ride News offer the following tips for pregnant women:

- Always use a lap and shoulder belt. The lap belt should be pushed down as far as possible

below the stomach and should fit snugly. The air bag switch should be left on – air bags work in combination with seat belts.

- Sit as far back from the steering wheel as possible, while still allowing your feet to reach the pedals.
- Let others do the driving as much as possible during the last few months of pregnancy and avoid unnecessary trips. When you ride in the car, sit in the back seat, using both the lap and shoulder belts.



In the event of a crash, even a minor one, get checked at the clinic or hospital emergency room.



## Graco SnugRide Infant Car Seat Recalled

Graco Children's Products announced a voluntary recall of 650,000 stand-alone SnugRide infant car seats equipped with a base manufactured between March 1, 2002, and March 6, 2003. SnugRide seats sold as part of a travel system (stroller/infant carrier/car seat base combination) are not part of this recall.

The models affected include 8402, 8412, 8442, 8442L, 8443, 8443L, 8444, 8444L, 8446, 8446L, 8447, 8447L, 8448, 8448L, 8457, 8458, 8459, 8601, 8463, 8464, 8470, 8471, 8478, and C844342.

Graco has determined that a small number of SnugRide infant car seats may have missing hardware used to attach the carrier to the base. If the hardware is missing, the carrier may not be attached securely to the base. In the event of a sudden stop or crash, the carrier may detach from the base, possibly resulting in serious injury or death. To date, no injuries have been reported or linked to this issue.

Consumers with the recalled seat should contact Graco at 1.866.473.0163 or visit [www.gracobaby.com](http://www.gracobaby.com) for inspection instructions.

